

McCloy Opposes Reparations for Internees

Associated Press

Retired diplomat John J. McCloy said yesterday the 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry interned by the United States during World War II are due neither reparations nor an apology.

McCloy, 87, who was assistant secretary of war at the time, said the suffering by Japanese-Americans and Japanese aliens was no worse than that others underwent in the stress of war.

He spoke forcefully for nearly four hours before the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, which was created by

Congress to recommend whether the United States should compensate those who lost their jobs, homes, farms and often their dignity because the government assumed their loyalty could not be counted upon.

McCloy said the uprooting of the people of Japanese origin from their West Coast homes was decided upon by men like President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Secretary of War Henry Stimson, who could not be accused of racism.

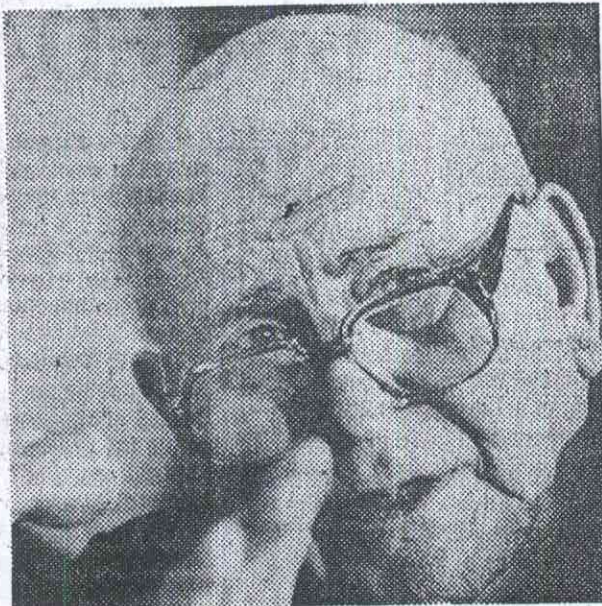
He said everyone made sacrifices, including those who gave up everything to join the Army.

"Is there not a big distinction between serving your country, as you

and I did, and and being stigmatized as disloyal?" asked former Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Goldberg, a commission member.

Replied McCloy: "All of us suffered. People who died on Iwo Jima suffered, too. I don't think we ought to apologize."

At one point, McCloy used the term "retribution" to describe the internment, provoking the only Japanese-American member of the panel, William Marutani, to question him closely. Marutani, a judge in Philadelphia, spent six months in a camp before enlisting in the U.S. Army.



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